





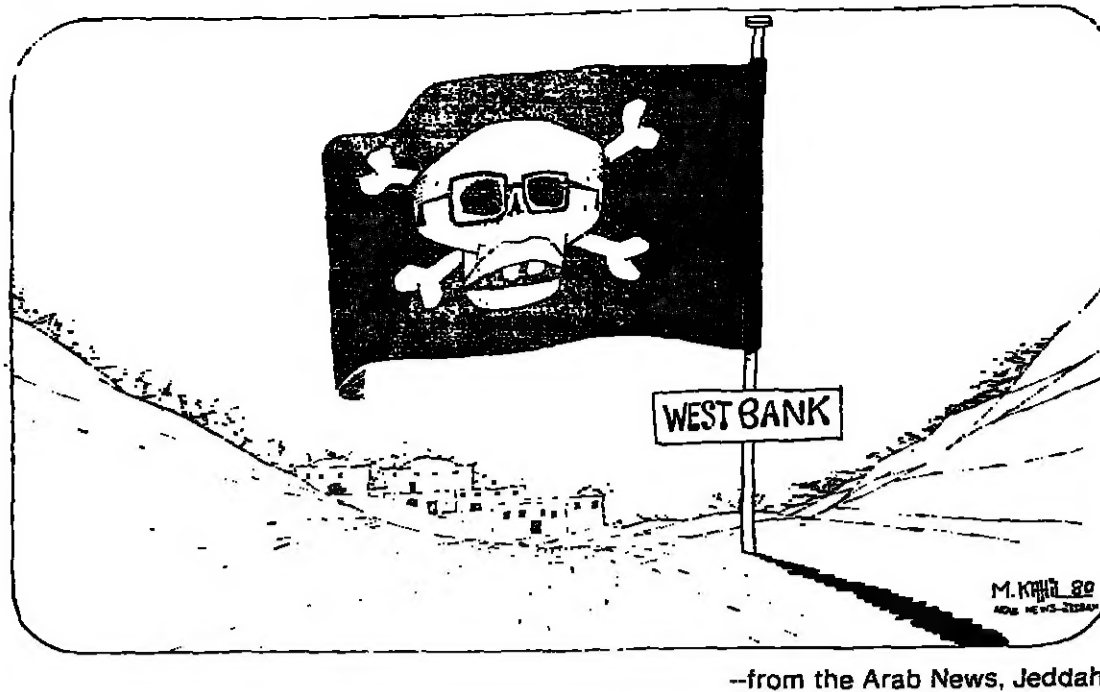
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—from the Arab News, Jeddah

## After successful U.S. tour

## West Bank deportees given the key to Washington city

By Tara Bradford  
Special to the Jordan Times

WASHINGTON, June 17—The three West Bank leaders deported by Israel last month were yesterday presented with the key to the city of Washington.

Mayors Fuhd Qawasmil of Hebron and Mohammad Milhem of Halhoul and Sheikh Rajab Tamimi, the chief of Hebron, later held a series of private meetings on Capitol Hill. They were also honoured at a luncheon at the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University, held a conference for members of the Arab press based in Washington and were guests at a reception hosted by the Arab League.

Today they are scheduled to meet U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, and will be guests at a luncheon given by the Council on Foreign Relations, a private

organisation.

The three leaders have just completed a highly successful tour of U.S. cities, including Denver, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Cincinnati, Boston and Detroit. They also visited Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota and Knoxville, Tennessee. They were presented with the keys to the cities of Denver, Cincinnati and Detroit as well as Flint and Dearborn, two suburbs of Detroit.

On Sunday about 1,500 people in Washington participated in the "Mayor's March to Return Home", which began in Dupont Circle and continued for about three miles to Lafayette Park across the street from the White House. There the three West Bank leaders spoke and read cables of support from several U.S. Congressmen, including Mr. Walter Fauntroy.

Sheikh Tamimi and Mayor Qawasmil stayed in Washington

Sunday night while Mayor Milhem flew to New York for an engagement at Riverside Church. The event was sponsored by an ad hoc committee including former attorney general Ramsey Clark, Mr. Gilberto Geneva Valentin, a New York city council member, the Middle East office of the National Council of Churches, the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organisation, the War Resisters League, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and the Workers World Party.

Three Jewish members of the audience were forcibly removed from the auditorium. One man, brandishing an Israeli flag, shouted "Death to the PLO" and "There is no Palestine." This reporter was hit on the head by one of the Jewish demonstrators while attempting to photograph the scuffle. Other demonstrators were kept outside the church by police.

## Problems of Zarqa reviewed during visit of Crown Prince

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA, June 17—Squatters and pollution plague Zarqa, the erstwhile paradise of Jordan.

This was a conclusion reached during discussions today held by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and government officials with several hundred community leaders and prominent citizens of the Zarqa region. The meeting took place at a commercial school within the city.

Discussion focused on squatters, considered the main obstacle to development plans for the region. About 13,000 dunums of Zarqa and the neighbouring town of Ruseifa—about half of all land there—is government-owned and mostly occupied by squatters.

The problem began in 1948, when thousands of people moved to Zarqa, then a sleepy village where wild animals and birds thrived in green areas fed by the nearby river. Settlers have built houses on government land they have no title to. Dealing in such plots land has become a commonplace business practice in what is now Jordan's second largest city, one observer at today's meeting reported to the Jordan Times. None of these transactions are registered with the government.

Citizens at today's meeting complained that the government has refused to put the land where their family homes are located under their names. An elderly man berated the government because it has ordered the Ministry of Education to discontinue rent payments to the landlord of a government school. The school, officials pointed out, had been built illegally by the landlord, a private investor, on state land.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. Saleh Masadeh, told the assembly that his ministry is considering selling government land to home owners for a minimal price, and is

planning ways to curtail the illegal dealing in such land. He added that a proposal for a land bank is also being studied, to enable average citizens to buy land for homes.

Also present at the meeting moderated by Prince Hassan were Dr. Jamal Sha'er minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, Mr. Khalid Boudai, director of the Amman Urban Regional Planning Group; Mr. Badri Mulqi, director of the Land and Survey Department; Mr. Hamdullah Nabulsi, director of the Housing Corporation and other representatives of government agencies.

The meeting was the second of a series sponsored by the Crown Prince in municipalities outside Amman. They have as their aim an exchange between the government and local inhabitants on ideas about development. The first forum took place a month ago in Ajloun.

The problem of pollution was brought up by a complaint from the mayor of Ruseifa. The government recently destroyed crops cultivated by farmers along the banks of the Zarqa without paying them compensation, he said.

A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture noted that the farmers had been ordered not to grow crops such as radishes, that can be eaten raw, because of pollution in the river.

Among the many pollutants factories dump into the river, a representative of the Royal Scientific Society said, is mercury, a highly toxic substance. An employee from the Ministry of Industry and Trade pointed out that although the ministry is responsible for approving permits to build factories it cannot designate where they should be located.

That decision is left up to the discretion of the local municipal councils, which until now have shown little concern for the environment. A more active involvement is needed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and

the Environment, said Sha'er. He added that the government is studying the possibility of requiring the of the newly-formed De of the Environment be tory can be built.

Participants widely agreed at present there is a series playgrounds and green the Zarqa region.

Other topics of discussion problems in the region electricity, water, roads and health centres.

A director of a proposed that students schools during summer and that the money save on building new schools was met with approval Hassan. He added that future he would like to leaders and members organisations in Zarqa.

## Saudi Arabia donates \$600,000 to Nablat Municipality

AMMAN, June 17—Saudi Ambassador Sheikh Ibrahim Al Nablat handed a cheque for \$600,000 to Nablat Municipality, as aid to the Municipality.

In addition to the \$600,000, the Saudi government has granted supplementary grants towards the purchase of power generators for Nablat Municipality. The Saudi Arabian government already donated funds for the purchase of the but the original grant, supplemented because of the relative v dollar and the German

## Never too late

THE VISIT to Washington of His Majesty King Hussein has afforded an opportunity for President Carter and his advisers to hear, from probably the most universally respected spokesman for the Arab position, a detailed and rational account of that position at the present crucial juncture in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The actions of the Carter administration -- in confusing a bilateral truce with peace, in neglecting the crucial elements of a peace settlement, in abetting Israel's aggressive actions in the occupied territories and against its neighbours, in underestimating the common Arab determination to return the Palestinian homeland with Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, and in impugning the motives of Arab countries (including this one) which have steadfastly refused to forfeit their national cause in order to be drawn into a sterile negotiating process that is leading nowhere -- have done much to bring things to an even more critical plateau of tension in this region.

It is important that Washington should be apprised of the depth and breadth of the Arab commitment to peace on the basis, and only on the basis, of a comprehensive settlement that is predicated on -- and not the vague, hoped-for culmination of -- a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied by aggression since 1967, the restoration of those territories, including East Jerusalem, to Arab sovereignty, and the recognition of the national and human rights of the dispossessed Palestinian people.

Above all, it is important that Washington should be reminded that there cannot be even the beginnings of real progress towards peace without an end to the Israeli occupation and settlement of the West Bank, the Golan, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

The Carter administration has created the impression that it is mesmerised by its own adherence to the Camp David approach to the extent that it is incapable of even hearing, much less rationally examining, protestations from the Arab World about the hazards of that approach. This has been manifested, for example, in the peremptory treatment of this country, one of the pivotal parties to the conflict, since the beginning of the Camp David process, and in some offensive statements by President Carter and his aides in the past on such questions as Palestinian national rights.

As long as the all-out U.S. support of Israel continues while the Begin regime is busy expropriating Arab land, encircling Arab communities in the West Bank with military settlements, denying and endangering the existence of the Palestinian people and encouraging an atmosphere of official repression and terror against them, then there is not much hope for a substantive and positive change in America's blind adherence to a course that threatens its own national interests as well as the very existence of the Arab people. But, it is never too late to try and sound the alarm.

On the eve of the King's visit, President Carter told a group of Jewish journalists: "The thing that is troubling about the establishment of (Jewish) settlements (in the occupied territories) under the aegis and with the sponsorship, and sometimes the financing, of the Israeli government is that it indicates to the Palestinian Arabs, to the Egyptians and to others that Israel will not carry out the principles of the Camp David accords in withdrawing their military government."

This unexpectedly candid statement -- even if not backed up by the U.S. voting record at the United Nations--takes Mr. Carter a bit closer to the truth and the reality than he has appeared to be in the past. One expects--and hopes--that after the end of his talks with King Hussein today, he will be even more aware of that truth and that reality. There will still be a long way to go in undoing the damage already done, but it might not be too late to start.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: The outrageous Israeli response to the European summit declaration on the Middle East is an advance reaction to the efforts Europe has promised to make in seeking a comprehensive solution to the issue, including the dispatch of a delegation to solicit the views of the concerned parties on the statement.

This rejection of the European efforts, and refusal to receive the delegation, means that Israel does not want any progress in the search for peace. It simply wants to force the world to yield to its aggressive ambitions and practices in the occupied Arab territories.

It goes without saying that the intransigent Israeli attitude towards the efforts of the international community emphasises the need--now more urgent than ever--for a firm international stand, in which the U.S. should take part, to tame Israel and force it accept a just and comprehensive peace settlement.

Otherwise, Israel's continued intransigence will remain a time bomb, threatening peace throughout the world--not only stability in our region.

AL DUSTOUR: Egypt's declaration of a state of emergency along its western border, its planning of joint manoeuvres with the U.S. air force, its efforts to obtain arms from America as part of the price for its signing the Camp David accords and President Sadat's repeated statements about modernising Egyptian arms are developments that pose more than one question about the motives behind them.

What is the source of the threat to Egypt, which is being supported by the other Camp David parties--Israel and the U.S.--and whose regime lives in the shadow of their protection and absolute support? The only possible answer to these questions might be that preparations are being made, for the practical implementation of the third stage of the Camp David process after the peace treaty and the local autonomy conspiracy. This stage would be Egypt's playing the police role in the region, and that of a guard for American interests and Zionist ambitions.

## Local News Briefs

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Minister of Social Development, Mrs. In'am Mufti, returned here this evening after a five-day visit to Paris upon the invitation of the French government. Mrs. Mufti told the Jordan News Agency that she met during the visit with the wife of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. She said she also discussed with top French officials matters pertaining to the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development in exchanging expertise and providing scholarships in child care, kindergartens, clubs and specialised programmes.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- Acting Prime Minister Qasem Al Rimawi today issued an official circular declaring next Sunday a public holiday on the occasion of the anniversary of the Great Arab Renaissance.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem received at his office today the Soviet and Italian ambassadors in Amman. He discussed with them matters related to strengthening bilateral relations between Jordan and their countries.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Ministry of Finance and Customs today decided to allow the cars of Jordanian citizens residing in Saudi Arabia to enter Jordan at the two customs posts of Al Ummari and Al Mudawwarah.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- A delegation from the University of

Jordan left Amman for Algiers today for an official visit to Algeria which will last several days. Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Dean of the School of Shari'a and chairman of the delegation, said the visit comes in response to an invitation from the University of Algiers to participate in the ceremony marking the opening of the Shari'a college in Algiers.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Department of Antiquities, in cooperation with Yarmouk University, Sunday began excavations in the Sahab area in Amman District. The work will last two months. Yarmouk University Antiquities Professor Mu'awiyah Ibrahim said he will prepare a research paper on the antiquities and excavations in the area.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The West Bank Affairs Committee at the National Consultative Council held a meeting today to hear a report from Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, minister of state and chairman of the Executive Bureau for Occupied Territories Affairs, explaining the various activities, tasks and responsibilities of the executive bureau. Mr. Ibrahim also reviewed the work achieved by the bureau and the work it hopes to do in regulating continued support to the people under occupation. He also answered questions put to him by committee members.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The 11th Conference of the National Arab Committees for Culture, Education and Science continued its meetings this afternoon at Hussein Youth City. During the meeting, the conferees discussed several topics, including the symposium of the international organisation scheduled to be held in Rabat, Morocco next December. The National Arab Committees and several international organisations will participate in the meetings of this symposium.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Director of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ali Dajani, today left Amman for Switzerland to participate in a business symposium which will be opened in Geneva next week. Mr. Dajani will address the symposium on the Jordanian economy and its involvement in economic activities in neighbouring Arab countries. Several Arab and foreign businessmen are participating in the two-day symposium.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- Communications Minister Mohammad Adhoub Al Zaben today inaugurated the Karak's new electronic telephone system, which will bring fully automated telephone service to Karak instead of the previous manual service.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- Na'aymah Municipality in Irbid District has obtained a loan of JD 125,000 from the Bank for Urban and Rural

Development. The money will be spent for the construction of a preparatory school for girls, opening new roads and establishing public parks in the town.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The military governor has approved a sentence passed by the military court sentencing Mr. Fadi mad Hajjaj Al Manasir to three months in prison and a fine of 10,000 for offering a bribe to a public servant.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The military governor has approved a decision of the military court sentencing Mr. H. Yousef Ibrahim for one month in prison after finding him guilty of violating Supply Ministry regulations. Mr. M. Rudwan Dahdah was also fined JD 100 after being convicted of similar charges.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The number of incidents of violence in the country in the last 24 hours was 19, including six accidents, which caused the injury of 14 citizens. Three places during the same period, in which two citizens sustained

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Social Development Department for Zarqa District has completed a census of the population of the Yajouz Triangle area. The census, which took two weeks, provided information about the classes of people, their ages, education of living and their jobs, as well as the growth of the area. The Social Development Department at Zarqa submitted a report of the census to the Ministry of Social Development for the establishment of a social centre in the area. The centre will be affiliated with the Queen Alia fund.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Ministry of Social Development decided to open a social development office in southern Shun central Jordan Valley. The office will begin rendering service to inhabitants of the area in the next few days. The Social Development Directorate distributed JD 1,907 in aid to the disabled, old and poor families in the district during May.

AMMAN, June 17 (JNA) -- The Ministry of Tourism at Quies yesterday closed several hotels in Amman and Zarqa for failure to meet the standards set up by the Ministry of Tourism particularly because of their low standards of service and lack of other hygienic services.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

## Exhibitions

The French Cultural Centre is holding a documentary exhibition entitled "Des Metiers et Des Hommes". Drawings and photographs of a wide range of human activities will be on display until June 29. Visiting hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Jordanian Journalists' Association, in cooperation with the Arab Journalists' Union, presents a photo exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre. The exhibition, closing today, is open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

The Goethe Institute, in cooperation with Lufthansa Airlines, presents a cartoon exhibition entitled "Follow Me", on the subject of aviation since the start of the century. The exhibition is open during office hours.

The British Council presents an informal exhibition of watercolours and oil paintings by the Jordanian artist Ammar Khamash, whose work consist mainly of local landscapes. The exhibition will be show in the centre's exhibition hall during office hours.

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ART REVIEW

# A young artist with a deep love of Jordan

By Fawzia Mai  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, June 17 — Amman artists travelling along the road Shmeisani from Sports City have noticed on their left, in the heart of a house, a strange green statue clasp despairingly its aged head with a heavily veiled face.



Ammar Khammash painting in the Jordanian countryside on one of his frequent trips around the country.

er will be agreeably surprised when he discovers the Jordanian countryside through the eyes of a who lives it deeply.

number of water-colours particularly soothing to the eye depict parts of Jordan in soft pastels. One, entitled "The Id between Irbi and Ajloun", the air of a particularly chilly dry winter day and of that feel of cold seeping into the bones regular to the Jordanian water-colours simply for example, the corner of a

room, a mattress on the floor covered with lovely flowery material, and other ordinary household furniture, which despite the freshness of the strokes and the softness of the colours, impart a homely warmth.

Mr. Khammash's mastery of water-colour is all the more admirable when one realises that he started working in the medium less than a year ago. And even more surprisingly, the artist, always looking for new means of expression, had decided to drop water-colours altogether and is starting working with a new method in oils.

Oil painting is by no means new to Mr. Khammash. When he first started painting at the age of fourteen, it was oil he first chose. None of his earlier, of surrealistic works are to be found at the exhibition

done his prior conception that emotions should be expressed directly. As he finally mastered oil painting technique, he realised that a natural representation can reflect feelings much more powerfully than a highly complicated mass of dead people or other complex surrealist compositions.

"Feelings should lie beyond the paintings," he told the Jordan Times.

The stormy soul that left its stamp on the earlier "impressionistic" — since, he says, "they are not really impressionist" — paintings turned into a day-dreaming spirit.

More recently however, Mr. Khammash has started to transcribe onto his canvas the simple life and tastes of the Arab peasant. Some of these still-lives, full of screamingly loud colours, are exhibited along with their subjects. Two or three paintings that reproduce the patterns of Baq'a-made cloth have pinned beside them the original fabric, bright blue with large yellow and red flowers. The original looks like the "ugly duckling" little brother of the attractive fabric in the picture.

Another facet of Jordan unknown to the tourist who visits only Petra and Jerash, or for that matter, to the Jordanian in general, is revealed in "Pots in a House in Anjara". Anjara, a little village in the north of Jordan, possesses a prize collection of picturesque houses built on multiple levels hiding in their corners antiquities and locally-made earthenware of all sizes and shapes.

One painting stands alone and confronts the viewer with a puzzle: What is it all about? The composition is very well balanced, with a mass of human figures at the centre painted in a well blended mixture of heiges and blues. The movement of the whole is well marked by blocks of light against the shadowy background. It represents an impenetrable stroke of genius.

Of this painting Mr. Khammash says that he does not know how he came to paint such a thing. In fact he produced two paintings in that



The concrete statue made by Ammar Khammash at the age of 14 stands at the door of his home in Shmeisani.

style at the time, but the second is now hanging on the wall of a home in Italy. As a matter of fact, about ten of the exhibits marked "not for sale" were retrieved from private collections for this exhibition.

Ammar Khammash was born in 1960 in Amman. He studied at Terra Santa College but had to interrupt his studies for two years following the disturbances of 1970, when his family moved to a mountain village in Lebanon, Souq al Gharb.

"Those time, which I spent walking endlessly in the forest, may have been an important factor in the interest I developed in art when I returned to Amman," Mr. Khammash says.

"As a child, I was rather the opposite, more scientific than artistic. I was well-known in the old street in Jabal Hussein where we used to live for constructing all kinds of things. Among others, I remember making an oven, and also a piano, the strings of which I tied so tightly that one day the whole thing burst." One might say that one thing inventors and artists have in common is a fertile imagination.

Mr. Khammash is graduating this year from high school and has opted to study architecture in the United States. His exhibition is open during British Council working hours and will close on June 22.

## Continued from page 1

### Hussein, Carter start official talks

in the Gulf.

After the ceremony, the two leaders moved to the president's Oval Office to begin their first round of talks. They posed for photographers before sitting down for more than two hours of private discussions.

During those talks, His Majesty King Hussein was expected to reiterate the Arab position that the Camp David process is doomed to failure and that the search for peace must be taken before the international community with the active participation of all the parties concerned.

No statement is expected until after the second round of talks between the King and President Carter Wednesday morning.

Jordan's new ambassador to Washington, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, told the Jordan Times that the Jordanian side expects no breakthroughs from the talks, nor any change in President Carter's position. "It is a matter of good diplomacy that His Majesty has come," the ambassador said.

The Hussein-Carter talks were attended on the Jordan side by Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

The American side include Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, special Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz, Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders and the American ambassador in Amman.

King Hussein lunched with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and told reporters later he still seeks "a peace that is lasting" and that he looks to the future "with hope." He declined to answer reporters' questions.

Senator Richard Stone said the King was optimistic about what might happen in negotiations in the Middle East conducted, in Mr. Stone's words, "under decent

conditions of freedom." "There really is no closing door on negotiations," Mr. Stone said. "Negotiations can still take place under certain conditions."

King Hussein told members of Congress that Palestinians should participate in solving the Palestinian problem.

"Let us hope the renewed effort among all of us—with the participation of all concerned or parties to the problem—particularly the people of Palestine—to resolve the problem of Palestine—will continue and that we will see the dawn of peace," he said.

This evening he and Queen Noor were the guests of honour at a state banquet given by President and Mrs. Carter at the White House.

Tomorrow, after his morning talks with President Carter at the White House, the King is to have a working lunch with Secretary of State Muskie. Tomorrow evening he will be honoured at a dinner given by Ambassador Sharaf.

On Thursday, King Hussein is to speak at a luncheon meeting at the National Press Club.

### Iran's revolutionary guards chief resigns

Iran, strongly resembling Cuban President Fidel Castro with his busy beard, forage cap and khaki fatigues. His real name is Abbas Zaman but he adopted Abu Sharif as an Arabic nom de guerre. In the mid-1970's, he served in Lebanon with the Amal group, the military wing of the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's special envoy to Iran, Dr. Adib Daoudy, arrived in New York today to report on the apparent failure of his 27-day efforts to reactivate the U.N. inquiry commission.

Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said yesterday Iran saw no reason for any further U.N. attempt to solve the hostage crisis.

Dr. Daoudy, a Syrian diplomat, was one of the five members of the commission that spent 17 days in Iran earlier this year hearing grievances of the authorities against the deposed Shah and the U.S.

The commission was unable to fulfil the other part of its mandate, which was to look into American grievances and see the hostages held at the U.S. embassy.

Dr. Waldheim sent Dr. Daoudy to Tehran on May 17 assess the prospects for the commission's completing its work.

In another development, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), the leading group fighting Iranian government forces for Kurdish autonomy, has split over the continuation of the armed struggle and relations with the Tudeh (Communist) Party, KDP sources said today.

The official Pars News Agency published a statement by six of the 25 full members of the KDP central committee in which they announced their breakaway.

In their statement, the breakaway members called for an end to the guerrilla war against the central authorities because Ayatollah Khomeini was on the government side.

They said statements by Ayatollah Khomeini provided the basis for a settlement of the Kurdish problem. They greeted efforts by President Bani-Sadr to solve the crisis, and named several clergymen they said were in sympathy with the Kurdish position.

The breakaway group pinned responsibility for the war in Kurdistan on "agents of imperialism" within the government.

The group is led by Ghani Bolourian, who after serving more than 20 years in jail during the Shah's regime, was recently elected parliamentary deputy for Mahabad, centre of the Kurdish-held zone in West Azerbaijan province.

A spokesman at the KDP headquarters in Mahabad said the six breakaway leaders were believed to have had links with the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party, which has proclaimed support for the line of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The other 19 members of the KDP central committee have approved Dr. (Abdul Rahman) Qassemlou's leadership of the party, while the Tudeh Party has been trying to oust him from the leadership, the spokesman told Reuters by telephone.

### ABDO KAMAL AL SHA'ER LINA SHAFIQ SHUHAIBER

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Abdo Kamal Al Sha'er and Miss Lina Shafiq Shuhaiber upon their recent marriage in Boston.

Mr. Sha'er received his B.S. in engineering from MIT in Boston and Miss Shuhaiber received her B.A. in literature from the American University of Beirut.

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It will be seasonably warm, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be north-easterly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
Amman	16	30
Aqaba	23	39
Deerts	17	34
Jordan Valley	21	37

The high temperature in Amman on Tuesday was 29, while that in Aqaba was 40.

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## Ford, GM plan \$16b in overseas investments

DETROIT, June 17 (Agencies) -- The two U.S. auto giants, General Motors and Ford, are spending billions of dollars in the search for foreign markets at a time when domestic car sales are in a severe slump.

Although much of its plunging profit results from heavy foreign imports, General Motors, the world's largest car manufacturer, plans to invest at least \$8 billion in overseas expansion during the next five years.

Ford, number two in America but bigger than General Motors overseas, also budgeted \$8 billion in capital expenditure abroad between 1979 and 1984.

Both companies say they have no intention of cutting back their ambitious overseas plans, although they are closing down plants, laying off workers and slashing costs at home as the United States slips into an economic recession.

General Motors is making a concerted push into the lucrative European market, while Ford is pouring much of its new investment into Latin America.

But both acknowledge that China, the world's most populous nation, ultimately represents the greatest potential customer as it becomes more industrialized and less impoverished.

Already they have begun exploring the possibility of joint ventures with Peking since the U.S. government opened diplomatic relations with China last year.

However Mexico, riding an oil boom, is the fastest-growing market at present. Ford plans to increase capacity in Mexico by 29 per cent this year and in Argentina by 26 per cent.

General Motors, determined to overtake Ford abroad, last year announced a \$2 billion expansion programme in Europe with major projects in Spain and Austria.

The bulk of the investment is going to Spain, where labour rates are cheaper. General Motors is building a car assembly plant in Zaragoza and a components factory in Cadiz. In Austria, it has started building an engine plant in Vienna.

General Motors President E.M. Estes says the new plants will boost production by about 300,000 cars a year and reflect confidence in the continued strength of Europe's economy.

Planners at Ford and General

Motors foresee a growth rate of between two and three per cent annually in Europe and are looking to increase their share of the market.

The U.S. car companies actually lost ground slightly to European and Japanese carmakers last year. Ford's share of cars sold in Europe dropped from 12.2 per cent in 1978 to 12 per cent last year, while General Motors slipped from 10.3 to 9.6 per cent.

Ford bounced back posting record sales in the first three months of this year mainly because of a big demand in trucks. Truck sales jumped 21 per cent to 113,900. Car sales were actually down one per cent to 452,900.

Ford's healthy overseas profits kept the company in the black last year. Thanks to record foreign earnings of \$1.4 billion the company finished with a profit of \$1.2 billion after losing \$200 million on domestic operations.

This year, however, a profit of \$309 million overseas in the first quarter was not enough to keep Ford out of the red as it lost \$473 million on U.S. sales.

General Motors never discloses its overseas earnings but overall profits nose-dived to \$155 million in the first three months this year from \$1.25 billion in the same period of 1979.

Domestic sales of all the "big three" carmakers -- General Motors, Ford and Chrysler -- have dropped drastically in the first five months of this year and show no sign of improving till the 1981 models hit the showrooms in September.

General Motors has laid off 135,000 of its 415,000 hourly workers and Ford \$9,500 of its 200,000-man workforce.

Chrysler, because of its extreme financial difficulties, has had to cut back its overseas operations, unlike its two main U.S. competitors. The company, which is trying to obtain federal aid, has sold off most of its overseas interests in the past two years.

The carmakers blame the slump on the deteriorating economic situation, with buyers squeezed by rising inflation and high interest rates and increasingly turning to small, fuel-efficient Japanese cars as petrol prices keep going up.

Ford in particular had concentrated too long on big petrol guzzlers and was caught with excess capacity and no competitive small car when U.S. consumers demanded smaller cars

less voracious at the fuel pumps. Ironically Ford has one of the best-selling small cars in Europe in the fuel-conscious Fiesta. Later this year it will unveil a new small car code-named the Erica, which it expects to have a big impact both in Europe and on the U.S. market. The Erica's design is strongly based on that of the Fiesta.

Like Ford, General Motors is also using the experience and technology obtained in building small European cars to develop a new front wheel drive model for the United States.

Ford officials say a threatened setback in the United States, the possible recall of some 16 million cars because of an alleged transmission defect, would not affect overseas expansion plans.

The National Traffic Safety Administration is investigating what it says is a fault in the automatic transmissions of Ford cars built between 1972 and 1979. But Ford says that the possibility it would have to recall the cars is extremely remote.

Ford analysts see a growth rate approaching six per cent in Asia and Latin America, but political uncertainties make the car companies reluctant to risk major ventures in some countries.

General Motors built a big assembly plant in Iran but it has been shut down since an Islamic revolution toppled the Shah last year and brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power.

However, General Motors still has much of the Middle East market to itself as Ford is on the Arab boycott list because of dealings with Israel.

Political considerations have not deterred both General Motors and Ford from investing heavily in Taiwan, nor apparently jeopardised their prospects of business with Peking.

Ford boosted capacity 65 per cent at one of its plants in Taiwan last year and has embarked on further additions this year, while General Motors has just entered into a 100-million dollar joint venture to build trucks there.

Ford got in first with Peking, ordering two million dollars worth of tractor parts as a trial run on Chinese workmanship. The company hopes to follow up with joint ventures to build trucks and tractors in China.

Meanwhile, Soviet workers at the world's largest truck factory have heard three days of talks from a senior Kremlin official on

fulfilling their plan targets, a report in the communist party newspaper *Pravda* said today. Mr. Andrei P. Kirilenko of the ruling politburo visited the Kama River truck factory about 800 kilometres east of Moscow from Friday to Monday for a series of meetings with workers and executives, according to a Tass News Agency despatch printed in *Pravda*.

Factory visits by high-ranking Soviet officials are not unusual, but the report of Mr. Kirilenko's trip came shortly after claims by unofficial Soviet sources about wildcat strikes in the country's automotive industry.

Western correspondents in Moscow were told by the sources last week that a strike stopped production at the Togliatti auto factory, idling 10,000 workers late last April or early in May, possibly to protest food shortages or in sympathy with a walkout by municipal bus drivers.

Another report claimed that a two-day walkout during the same period closed the Gorky automotive factory. However neither of the reports could be officially confirmed.

Built with Western technology, the Kama River plant was designed for annual production of 150,000 diesel trucks of eight-ton capacity and an additional 100,000 diesel engines for installation in trucks and buses built at other plants, according to Western sources.

## Indonesia may raise oil price

JAKARTA, June 17 (R) -- Indonesia is considering increasing its crude oil price from July 1 in view of the recent Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Algiers. Mines and Energy Minister Subroto said on his return from Algeria.

Dr. Subroto told reporters yesterday Indonesia would examine the demand for Indonesian crude in its main markets in Japan and the U.S. and observe the response of other exporting countries before making a decision.

Indonesia's low sulphur crude now costs \$31.50 per barrel. OPEC ministers at Algiers agreed in principle on a reference price of \$32 per barrel.

Dr. Subroto said Saudi Arabia was expected to bring its crude price to the reference level in September. Indonesia has traditionally charged an average of \$2 a barrel more than Saudi Arabia for its quality crude.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Ahmad Yamani, Saudi Arabian oil minister, arrived in Oslo yesterday for a four-day official visit and oil talks with Norwegian prime minister Odvar Nordli and the minister of oil and energy, Mr. Bjartmar Gjerde.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, June 16 (R) -- Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at the close of trading on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets today:

One sterling	2.3285 95
One U.S. Dollar	1.1517 20
	1.7670 80
	1.9340 55
	1.6300 15
	28.25 30
	835.00 50
	215.95 216.15
	4.1850 90
	4.8540 50
	5.4805 15
One ounce of gold	590.00 592.00

U.S. dollar	
Canadian dollar	
West German marks	
Dutch guilders	
Swiss francs	
Belgian francs	
Italian lire	
Japanese yen	
Swedish crowns	
Norwegian crowns	
Danish crowns	
U.S. dollars	

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	292.00 295.00
U.K. sterling	682.16 687.10
West German mark	168.29 166.20
Swiss franc	178.20 179.40
Italian lire	35.10 35.20
(for every 100)	7.10 7.15
French franc	180.60 151.50
Dutch guilder	70.30 70.70
Swedish crown	105.50 105.90
Belgian franc	
Japanese yen	135.20 136.10
(for every 100)	

## AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Co.	JD 10,000	285	14,800	14,700
Jordan Lime and Silicate Bricks Industries Co.	JD 5,000	750	5,550	5,500
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	50	13,450	13,450
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	100	1,450	1,450
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	3991	1,500	1,470
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	1528	2,180	2,170
Jordan Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	98	15,800	15,800
Jordan National Bank	JD 5,000	650	14,450	14,400
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	74	8,500	8,500
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Co.	JD 5,000	3000	1,020	1,010
Arabian Paper Manufacturing and Trade	JD 1,000	450	3,650	3,650
Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	20681	0,980	0,950
Dar Al Sha'ab	JD 1,000	4100	3,150	3,140
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	614	1,430	1,430
Jordan General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	550	0,940	0,930
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 5,000	328	25,600	25,600
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 1,000	475	1,210	1,190
Arab Company for Aluminium Industries Co.	JD 1,000	1553	1,890	1,850
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	75	1,050	1,050
Irish District Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	150	0,960	0,960
International Construction and Investment	JD 10,000	100	10,500	10,500
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	JD 1,000	500	1,300	1,300
Jordan Ceramic Industries Co.	JD 1,000	2942	1,300	1,300
Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co.	JD 5,000	2119	9,150	9,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 10,000	15	20,000	20,000
National Steel Industry				

Total Volume Traded on Tuesday, June 17, 1980: JD 168,429

Total number of shares traded: 49,783

### Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High
1982	JD 5,000	4	20	5,010
1988	JD 10,000	205	2052	10,010
1989	JD 10,000	154	1540	10,000

Total Volume Traded on Tuesday, June 17, 1980: JD 3,612

Total number of bonds traded: 363

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## Journalists banned from S. Africa's trouble areas

JOHANNESBURG, June 17 (R) — Police today banned all journalists from South Africa's trouble areas after a day of disorders marking the fourth anniversary of the bloody Soweto student riots of 1976.

Police spokesman Colonel Leon Mellet told a news conference in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, that South African and foreign newsmen who entered these areas without police permission and escort would be arrested.

"It has become very evident to us that at the moment, trouble-makers are waiting for cameramen and pressmen," he said.

Earlier, police had ordered journalists out of a coloured (mixed race) township near Johannesburg, saying there had been cases of arson and looting in the area. The police said Noordgesig township was a "restricted area."

A police spokesman also said that 28 of 35 black and coloured people injured in clashes with police around Johannesburg and Bloemfontein, in the Orange Free State, had suffered gunshot wounds.

Col. Mellet said some foreign networks had shown film of the 1976 Soweto riots -- in which 600 people died -- with shots showing heavy military vehicles. He alleged that these scenes had been shown as if they had taken place in Soweto yesterday.

Soweto and other black townships were reported tense but calm today as strong police forces continued patrols.

The heavy police presence in

the townships and a last-minute ban on political meetings prevented yesterday's events from providing a spark which could have unleashed a repeat of the death and destruction of four years ago.

Predicted work boycotts and mass meetings in the black and coloured ghettos which fringe most white cities did not materialise and only sporadic incidents were reported.

In the most serious incident of two days of simmering unrest, a white policeman was stabbed to death while taking part in a baton charge at a black township near Cape Town on Sunday night.

Police fired blasts of pellets from shotguns when they were stoned by crowds in the coloured Johannesburg township of Coronationville. A police spokesman said 19 people were wounded, none of them seriously.

Fifteen more people were wounded by police shotguns in a black township at Bloemfontein and a black youth was shot in the leg when police twice opened fire on a stone-throwing crowd in Soweto.

Last Friday the government moved firmly to squash black observance of the Soweto anniversary by banning all political meetings and memorial services of more than ten people until the end of the month.

Riot police quickly disposed of crowds which gathered on Sunday and yesterday in Soweto. Tear-gas and "sneeze machines" -- riot control vehicles which spray clouds of sneezing irritant -- were used to disperse crowds in areas close to a number of major cities, including Durban and Cape Town.

Police also clamped strict new restrictions on press coverage of trouble spots after accusing foreign journalists of inciting black youths in Soweto to throw stones. The action followed a claim by some reporters that police had deliberately fired tear-gas canisters at journalists when they broke up a meeting of about 500 people outside a Soweto church on Sunday.

Police also announced they had detained three prominent student representatives at the University of Cape Town, including the president of the National Union of South African Students, Mr. Andrew Boraine.

### Comecon session begins

PRAGUE, June 17 (R) — Prime ministers from the ten member states of Comecon, the communist trade bloc, began a three-day session here today to discuss coordination of their long-term economic plans and energy problems.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Lubomir Strougal, prime minister of the host country, who said the forthcoming decade would place great demands on Comecon, its management and technical resources.

Today's session will hear a report on Comecon activities over the past year and discuss a report by the planning committee on the state of coordination of members' plans for 1981 to 1985 and perspectives up to 1990.

The member states taking part in the meeting are Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Hungary,

East Germany, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Vietnam. Yugoslavia is attending as an associate member and observer.

Also present at today's meeting were observers from Angola, Afghanistan, South Yemen, Laos, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

The Soviet Union provides about 75 per cent of East Europe's energy needs, but it has told its allies that it cannot supply more, making clear that they will have to look increasingly to expensive foreign sources for oil.

Soviet oil now costs about \$15 a barrel, less than half the prices recently set by states in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But the price, which is calculated on a sliding scale based on average world prices over five years, is likely to rise sharply as a result of the latest OPEC increases.

The Comecon meeting was also expected to discuss difficulties in trading with the West and relations with the European Economic Community.

Talks on a general agreement between Comecon and the EEC have been going on for five years without making significant progress and the Western response to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan has slowed them down still further.

## Austrian police squad kills Yugoslav holding hostages

GRAZ, Austria, June 17 (R) — A police anti-terrorist squad today stormed a doctor's surgery and shot dead an unemployed Yugoslav who was held by one of his 23 hostages, a police spokesman said.

The squad burst into the second-floor surgery when they heard a shot fired inside. Josef Kis Lukac, 35, who police said appeared to be mentally deranged, took the hostages captive yesterday. He was killed instantly in the police assault.

Police said a 21-year-old hostage attacked Mr. Lukac from behind causing the gunman to fire one shot from his shotgun into a wall. The anti-terrorist squad, waiting for the first sign of violence, broke in immediately and killed Mr. Lukac.

One hostage suffered slight gunshot wounds and another hostage was slightly injured jumping from a second floor window during the fight, police said. The other hostages were rescued unharmed.

Mr. Lukac had demanded to speak with eight foreign journalists. Recently sacked from a factory in this southern Austrian city, he was apparently afraid he would be deported to Yugoslavia because his work permit had expired, police said. He wanted to

tell the journalists about his plight, they said.

Graz Mayor Alexander Goetz, whose offer to replace three children hostages was rejected by Lukac, said the police squad had orders to attack at the first sign of violence in the surgery.

Police said Mr. Lukac changed his demands several times during the siege. He originally asked to see journalists from four countries or three prominent Austrian politicians. He later insisted on meeting correspondents from eight states -- Britain, France, Hungary, Israel, Libya, Spain, Sweden, and the Soviet Union.

## New Hebrides rebels block arrival of peace negotiators

PORT VILA, New Hebrides, June 17 (R) — Rebels on the breakaway New Hebrides island of Espiritu Santo today rolled oil drums onto its airstrip to prevent government peace negotiators landing.

Three light planes carrying peace mission members and reporters were 30 minutes from Santo when the island's control tower told them that the runway was blocked.

The planes returned to the New Hebrides capital of Vila. An aircraft carrying the negotiators and journalists later left in another attempt to land on the island.

There was no immediate indication whether they were acting on the orders of self-styled prime minister Mr. Jimmy Stevens, who seized the South Pacific island three weeks ago in a revolt against the joint British and French colonial rulers.

The negotiators, who hoped to persuade secessionist leaders to lay down their arms, were delayed earlier today because French officials were unable to guarantee their safety, government sources said.

Chief Minister Father Walter Lini said yesterday the peace initiative would be the last attempt to bring rebel leader Stevens to the conference table before force was used.

Mr. Stevens and his French-speaking supporters fear they will do badly after independence due on July 30, under Father Lini's mainly English-speaking administration.

About 200 British marines arrived in Port Vila on Sunday after Father Lini asked for help in ending the Espiritu Santo rebellion. France, which has sent riot police to the islands, has protested strongly against the presence of British troops.

French resident commissioner Jean Jacques Robert said yesterday he feared the presence of the British marines could worsen division in the New Hebrides.

He told a press conference that the government peace mission would be able to fly into Espiritu Santo's main town, Luganville, even though the airport was officially closed. But early today government sources said French officials had now decided they could not guarantee the mission's safety.

The sources added that the French had also expressed displeasure over the government's decision to allow journalists to accompany the mission to the breakaway island.

## Programme under way for voluntary repatriation of Kampuchean refugees

KHAO-I-DANG, Thailand, June 17 (AP) — Thailand and the United Nations began a voluntary repatriation programme for Kampuchean refugees here today, and approximately 400 of the camp's 130,000 refugees signed up.

The first 200 of these left the camp in buses, all of them choosing to travel to the border camp of Nong Chuan, where 6,000 refugees are already borderline squatters, receiving food handouts from international agencies.

A Thai military spokesman said the repatriation programme, the first organised movement back to Kampuchea since 170,000 refugees began streaming into Thailand last October, would move to the Sa Kaew camp tomorrow.

At this camp of 30,000, about 50 kilometres from the border, he said, some 10,000 refugees were expected to sign up to return. Western relief officials have said they are worried that refugees at

this camp will be intimidated into returning by officers loyal to former premier Pol Pot.

These officers, who entered Thailand among the refugees last fall, have maintained a rule of fear in Sa Kaew, and in recent days, according to the relief workers, have stepped up pressure on the refugees to go home.

The mass repatriation was originally scheduled to begin yesterday, but U.N. officials had requested postponement for "technical reasons."

Officials at the Khao-I-Dang camp said yesterday that the U.N. officials had asked for the delay in order to adhere to the letter of a U.N.-Thai agreement that a notice describing a repatriation action would have to be posted in the camp 48 hours before the repatriation.

The refugees were to be given their choice of four cross-over points into Kampuchea, one of which is at an area controlled by Pol Pot guerrillas.

The U.N. coordinator for the repatriation, Mr. Zia Rizvi, said yesterday that Thai and U.N. officials cannot guarantee safety for those returning to Kampuchea.

## 'Thousands' may starve in India's Tripura State

NEW DELHI, June 17 (R) — Some 500 tribal people have been found starving and thousands are threatened with the same fate after fleeing to jungle hideouts following last week's massacre in India's Tripura state, the *Times of India* reported today.

The paper quoted Tripura's chief minister as saying the 500 discovered starving were located in one forest area.

They escaped to the forests during fighting between tribesmen and immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh in which 400 people were officially said to have died. Indian journalists reporting from the northeastern state say the real toll would be nearly 1,000.

The Bangladesh newspaper *Dainik Bangla* said today at least 150 beheaded bodies had floated down the Gumti River into the country's eastern Comilla district since June 10 when the carnage in Tripura was at its worst.

The *Times* said the authorities had no contact with the people who had fled into the jungles. The paper said many tribesmen and their families had been in the jungle for the past ten days and could not have carried much food with them.

The chief minister Mr. Nripen Chakraborty, told reporters yesterday in the state capital of Agartala that he had appealed to the central government to drop 1,000 tonnes of rice to the tribespeople

from planes. The *Times* said the government was trying to win back their confidence, badly shaken by the violence. Tribal people form 30 per cent of the state's 1.5 million population. Immigrants from Bangladesh form the majority.

The newspaper said runaway tribesmen had made secret visits to villages at night in search of food but found only the charred remains of their homes. It said many Bengali-speaking settlers had refused to sell grain to tribesmen.

### Japan's ruling party expects to maintain parliamentary majority

TOKYO, June 17 (R) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) today said it was confident of maintaining its majorities in both houses of parliament after next Sunday's general election.

Mr. Yoshio Sakuruchi, secretary-general of the party, and other LDP executives met today to examine results of the campaigning so far for the elections. Campaigning was disrupted last week by the death of party leader and prime minister Masayoshi Ohira.

The executives concluded that the LDP, which has ruled Japan since 1955, would secure at least 256 seats in the 511-member lower house and would also win a majority in the 252-member upper house.

When the election was called

last month, the LDP had 258 seats in the lower house, the most important of the two chambers, and 124 seats in the upper house. Only half the upper house seats will be contested.

Despite their forecast that the LDP would be returned to power without the assistance of a coalition partner, the party chiefs nevertheless ordered LDP candidates to step up their campaign.

Last October the LDP lost ground when they called an early lower house election in the hope of capitalising on a supposed wave of popularity indicated by public opinion polls.

The LDP emerged weaker from the October election setting off a factional fight in the party that still continues.

Public opinion polls, frequently

## Iran said to have withdrawn bulk of its gold in Europe

TEHRAN, June 17 (R) — Iran has withdrawn the bulk of its gold stocks held in Western Europe, informed sources said here today.

The withdrawal appeared to be part of an effort by Iran to protect itself from any possible measure against it, on the principle that the safest place for the gold was at home, according to economic analysts.

The informed sources said that during the early months of this year some 14 tonnes of gold held in Europe by Iran's Central Bank was imported into this country.

The imports totalled some 14 tonnes of gold, the majority from Britain although holdings in Switzerland, France and possibly West Germany were also pulled out, the sources said. A small amount was left untouched.

The sources said that the operation, which is now completed, was carried out for reasons of "prudence," but that it had been planned before the threat of economic sanctions by EEC members became clear.

EEC members and other Western countries, who banned exports to Iran around the beginning of June over the American hostage issue, did not follow the United States in freezing Iran's assets.

But British customs figures show that Iran withdrew 4.38 tonnes in February and 8.8 tonnes in April from Britain, compared with only 0.18 tonnes in the whole of 1979.

Senior bullion dealers in London attributed the withdrawal to fears that Britain might impose an asset freeze. The total amount withdrawn from Britain this year was estimated in London at 13.18 tonnes valued at \$259 million.

Central Bank officials were not available here for official comment.

The sources here said Iran tentatively plans to revalue its gold reserves but that no firm decision has yet been taken.

They said gold not previously or currently held in Europe is either in Iran already or is held in certain other foreign countries including the United States, but they said the frozen holding in the United States is not large.

Central Bank Governor Ali Reza Nobari said in April that Iran's reserves were being trans-

ferred out of Europe in dollars. He said they had diversified "all over the East and West -- everywhere." Apart from the gold, Iran has firm evidence of a diversification of European holdings, but the economy believed that little of income was currently being in dollars.

## Official figures show Australia increased wheat sales to USSR

CANBERRA, June 17 (R) — Australia, which pledged to make up Soviet grain shortages caused by cancelled U.S. wheat exports to Moscow this year, increased the wheat exports to Moscow this year, official figures today said.

The Soviet Union, 1,700,000 tonnes of wheat in the nine months ending March 1980, compared with 157,000 tonnes in the same last year. In March Australia sold 303,000 tonnes of wheat to the Soviet Union, up from 100,000 tonnes in the same month last year.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said in a statement that the increase in wheat exports to the Soviet Union was a result of the cancellation of U.S. wheat exports to Moscow this year.

A spokesman for Deputy Minister Doug Anthony of the contracts was before the Soviet in "Australia's level of trade consistent with international obligations."

Opposition Labour spokesman Bill Hayden said export figures showed the government's hypocrisy in attempting to persuade athletes to boycott the Olympics.

"Any doubts of the government's monumental lie on this issue have been dispelled by the latest figures on wool sales," he said. Soviet wool purchases in totalled \$73 million, he said.

## Japan's ruling party expects to maintain parliamentary majority

TOKYO, June 17 (R) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) today said it was confident of maintaining its majorities in both houses of parliament after next Sunday's general election.

Mr. Yoshio Sakuruchi, secretary-general of the party, and other LDP executives met today to examine results of the campaigning so far for the elections. Campaigning was disrupted last week by the death of party leader and prime minister Masayoshi Ohira.

The executives concluded that the LDP, which has ruled Japan since 1955, would secure at least 256 seats in the 511-member lower house and would also win a majority in the 252-member upper house.

When the election was called last month, the LDP had 258 seats in the lower house, the most important of the two chambers, and 124 seats in the upper house. Only half the upper house seats will be contested.

Despite their forecast that the LDP would be returned to power without the assistance of a coalition partner, the party chiefs nevertheless ordered LDP candidates to step up their campaign.

Last October the LDP lost ground when they called an early lower house election in the hope of capitalising on a supposed wave of popularity indicated by public opinion polls.

The LDP emerged weaker from the October election setting off a factional fight in the party that still continues.

Public opinion polls, frequently



Ex-president Binaisa

## Guyana official's brother gives account of fatal car bombing

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, June 17 (R) — The brother of a leading Guyanese politician killed in a car bomb explosion last Friday said today, a former army sergeant had given them the bomb, claiming it was communications equipment.

Mr. Donald Rodney, 29, told reporters that he and his brother, Dr. Walter Rodney, leader of the opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) went to the former soldier's home on Friday.

He said the man told them that an object in a brown paper bag that he had given to them was part of a walkie-talkie set and he had asked them to test it a few minutes later. While waiting in the car for a signal from the set, the parcel, which was in Dr. Rodney's lap, exploded and Dr. Rodney was killed. Donald Rodney was injured in the blast.

The death of Dr. Rodney has raised political tension in Guyana, where six people were charged recently with treason in connection with an alleged plot to overthrow the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham. The WPA has denied police charges that the six had links with the opposition party and has accused the police of harassment.

A WPA statement issued after Dr. Rodney was killed accused the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of planting the car bomb. Dr. Rodney and two other WPA leaders went on trial June 3 accused of arson in connection with the destruction of the headquarters here of the PNC in July last year. The trial was adjourned three days later until Aug. 20.

Dr. Rodney was the third WPA member to die violently in the past seven months. Two others were shot dead in separate incidents by police who said the victims had tried to open fire on them.

## Moscow maintains hard line in Afghanistan

By Richard Balmforth

MOSCOW — The Soviet government, shrugging off Western and Islamic criticism of its intervention in Afghanistan, has indicated a clear intention of ensuring continued Marxist rule there.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and his colleagues, while giving the appearance of listening to all sides of the argument, have also avoided making the slightest concession to outside opinion.

Instead, they have watched with satisfaction as Afghanistan highlighted differences of opinion among the Western allies and in the Third World.

High-level talks involving the Kremlin, including a summit with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and meetings with the Swedish and Indian foreign ministers, have illustrated the gulf in East-West thinking.

And recent speeches by Soviet leaders indicate that the chance of a Soviet pull-out is receding by the day.

Despite American assertions that the Soviet intervention has run into serious military problems, there is nothing in Moscow to suggest that Afghanistan has become too hot to handle.

Diplomats see little chance that West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, though pledged to engage in some tough talking on Afghanistan when he visits Mos-

cow later this month, will wring any major concessions from the Kremlin.

The Kremlin justified its incursion into Afghanistan six months ago by saying it was responding to treaty obligations to a Marxist government under threat from external aggression.

The Russians argued that a two-year rebellion against Marxist rule in Kabul had been planned, organised and armed by the U.S., China and Britain with help from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other pro-Western states.

Although no hard evidence has been presented to back this claim, it has provided an effective blunt instrument with which to head off Western protests.

Maintaining that Marxist President Babrak Karmal's Moscow government is still vulnerable to foreign-sponsored counter-revolutionary attacks, the Kremlin is now pressing Afghanistan's two Muslim neighbours, Iran and Pakistan, to normalise relations with the country.

The Kremlin has focussed its pressure on Pakistan which it sees as the key to gaining Islamic acceptance of the Karmal government.

### Troop withdrawal if...

The carrot which the Kremlin has dangled tantalisingly is a possible withdrawal of its 85,000 or so troops in Afghanistan.

In January, in his first major declaration on Afghanistan, President Brezhnev said Soviet troops would "be withdrawn in full once the reasons that prompted

Afghanistan to call for their entry have disappeared."

But since then, the Kremlin speechwriters have changed their script. Now, Soviet leaders say that dates could only be fixed for starting a withdrawal once all outside interference -- the Kremlin formula which embraces any anti-government resistance -- has ceased.

Soviet leaders also have dropped their reference to "all" Soviet troops being pulled out.

One Western diplomat said: "All Soviet allusions now to a withdrawal -- so full of 'ifs', 'buts' and 'coulds' as to be meaningless. Their troops look like they are there to stay."

The first Western leader to meet President Brezhnev since the December coup was President Giscard d'Estaing on May 19.

In line with France's foreign policy position of maintaining contacts with the Soviet leadership at all costs, the French president travelled to the semi-neutral, but nonetheless communist, ground of Poland, clearly in the hope of securing a breakthrough in the deadlock.

He emerged, plainly disappointed, from five hours of talks with President Brezhnev and Mr. Gromyko to tell waiting reporters that the talks had "exposed wide divergences" over Afghanistan.

That the French president was prepared to travel to the Soviet camp to talk with Kremlin leaders over Afghanistan represented a minor coup for Moscow.

Eleven days later, Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten, in talks in Moscow with Mr.

Gromyko and Premier Alexei Kosygin, told them that his government saw the Afghan crisis as "the single most important cause" of East-West tension. But the Soviet leaders offered no new proposals to help towards a solution.

### Bluntest message

It was, ironically, welcoming the foreign minister of the Soviet Union's non-communist ally, India, to Moscow earlier this month that Mr. Gromyko issued his bluntest message -- that the Kremlin had no intention of allowing the Marxist government in Kabul to fall.

He drew a clear distinction between what he termed the situation "in" Afghanistan and that "around" it.

The first which represented the reality of a pro-Moscow Marxist government in Kabul was irreversible, Mr. Gromyko said, while the second representing international attitudes to Mr. Karmal's administration had yet to be settled.

The Kremlin's sensitivity to India's stance on the Afghan issue was highlighted by the failure of the Soviet press to report the comments made by Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Afghanistan -- even though they were comparatively mild.

Soviet media ignored his comment that India sought "a secure and stable Afghanistan with a government effectively able to pursue its traditional non-aligned foreign policy and cherish its sovereignty and independence."

into Afghanistan which it off a partly-successful guerrilla led by the United States.

It can at least reflect boycott had a limited amount on national Olympic mittens of Washington's.

It can congratulate it that U.S. attempts to sp sanctions against Mosco had relatively little effect.

Schmidt, who will visit Moscow June 30, is expected to sign 25-year economic and in cooperation agreement v Soviet Union.

Within Afghanistan itself action continues to take t of Soviet soldiers. One based diplomat passing t Moscow recently made servative estimate of 50 soldiers killed or wound month.

Soviet generals are reported to be finding that is poor among Soviet soldi realise they are fighting t a minority government at port an unpopular revolt.

But with a tightly-cot domestic press that proje image of an Afghan poe lying with ever incr enthusiasm to the support Karmal and which has yet at Soviet military casalt Kremlin has little to tea public opinion.

But the continued re serves to make the Karm emment more depende Soviet military support an firms to the Kremlin leade Soviet troops must be mair there to prevent the colli Marxist rule.

With the Moscow Olympics just over five weeks away, there are few signs on the surface that the Soviet leadership regrets its move